

a2 could

diameter that is greater than that of the lower portion 50. Additionally, a base 51 of the bore 42 is preferably circular and has a diameter that is equal to or less than that of the lower portion 50. As best seen in Figures 12 and 13, the hexagonal shape of the upper 48 and lower portions of the bore 42 permit it to receive various sizes of commercially available rod hanger screws having a hex base, such as those produced by Elco under the name HangerMate®.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 7 as follows:

a3

Preferably, the head portion 66 of the tool 60 of the preferred embodiment includes a steel, or alternatively aluminum, cylinder 70 having a pair of perpendicular channels 72a, 72b extending substantially the entire length of the cylinder. The channels 72a, 72b thereby forming four head segments 73 extending upwardly from a base 74. A retainer ring 75 is preferably disposed around the cylinder 70 and contacts flanges 76 that extend from the upper portion of each of the segments 73.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 20 of page 7 as follows:

a4

Referring now to Figure 8, there is shown a second alternative embodiment for a tool for use in accordance with the present invention. The head portion 266 of the first alternative tool 260 includes a threaded stud 280 extending upwardly from a substantially circular base 282. The stud 280, similar to the first alternative embodiment, functions as an adapter for mounting Ramsets S Caps. Preferably, this second alternative tool 260 includes a mounting portion 262 having at least one planar alignment face 264 and a tapered end 268. The tool 260 is therefore inserted and seated into the first connector 28 as previous discussed. A mounting channel 282 is

Ad 1
also preferably disposed about the mounting portion 262 and is engagable by the locking screw 40 after insertion of the tool 260. Upon insertion, the base 283 is preferably seated on the top of the first connector 28.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 9 of page 8 as follows:

65
Referring now to Figure 9, there is shown a third alternative embodiment of a tool for use in connection with the present invention. The head portion 366 of the third alternative tool 360 preferably includes a cylindrical body 384 extending upwardly from a base 383 and a tapered top portion 386. A hexagonal bore 388 in axial alignment with the body 12 and having a predetermined diameter, extends into the body 384 from its top surface 390 and is adapted to receive a standard hex driver (e.g., a 1/4" hex driver). Preferably, the third alternative tool 360 includes a mounting portion 362 having at least one planar alignment face 364 and a tapered end 368. The tool 360 is therefore inserted and seated into the first connector 28 as previously discussed. A mounting channel 382 is also preferably disposed about in the mounting portion 362 and is engagable by the locking screw 40 after insertion of the tool 360. Upon insertion, the base 382 is preferably seated on the top of the first connector 28.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 9 as follows:

64
Referring now to Figure 10, there is shown a fourth alternative embodiment of a tool for use in connection with the present invention. Preferably, the head portion 466 of the third alternative tool 460 includes a cylindrical body 490 having tapered top portion 492. A bore 488 in axial alignment with the body 12 and having a predetermined diameter extends through the body 490 from its top surface 494 to